S806 ends, the determining unit returns to the process of step S804, and waits in standby until it detects a bend of one of the detecting units 302 to 307.

[0106] When it is determined in step S805 that the detected bend is not a page-turn operation (step S805: NO), it is determined whether the next detected bend is an index display operation (step S807). In step S807, if it is determined that the detected bend is not an index display operation (step S807: NO), it is then determined whether the detected bend is a double-fold operation (step S808).

[0107] When it is determined in step S808 that the detected bend is not a double-fold operation (step S808: NO), it is determined that the detected bend is not an operation for displaying the electronic book and the process returns to step S804, where the determining unit stands by until the next bend is detected. When it is determined in step S808 that the detected bend is a double-fold operation (step S808: YES), the determination of step S808 is used as a trigger for starting a timer (step S809). It is then determined whether a predetermined time (ten seconds in this embodiment) elapses on the timer started in step S809 (step S810).

[0108] If a new bend is detected before ten seconds elapse on the timer (step S810: NO), the process returns to step S804 and the operation content of the detected bend is determined again. When it is determined that ten seconds have elapsed since the timer started in step S809 (step S810: YES), the power of the electronic book is turned off (step S811) and the series of processes ends. Of course, the predetermined time is not limited to ten seconds and can be set arbitrarily by the operator or the manufacturer to a time shorter or longer than ten seconds.

[0109] Returning to the determination of step S807, a process when it is determined that the detected bend is an index display operation (step S807: YES) is explained. To display an index on the display unit 301 of the electronic book, a counter value N of the display content retaining unit is set to "0" (step S812). The process then returns to the flowchart of FIG. 8B, and it is determined whether the counter value N is an even number (step S813).

[0110] When it is determined that the counter value N is an even number (step S813: YES), chapter index data is read from the book data (step S814) and a chapter index is displayed on the display unit 301 (step S815). A chapter index displays the book data of the electronic book separately for each chapter of the pages, as shown in FIG. 7B.

[0111] It is then determined whether a touch on the tab portions of the chapter index displayed on the display unit 301 (tabs 721 to 726 shown in FIG. 7B) is detected (step S816). The determining unit stands by until a tab portion is touched (step S816: NO) and, when a touch is detected (step S816: YES), a head page of the chapter corresponding to the touched tab detected in step S816 is displayed (step S817), and the process shifts to step S822.

[0112] On the other hand, if the counter value N is determined to be an odd number in step S813 (step S813: NO), bookmark data is read from the display content retaining unit of the book data (step S818), and a bookmark index is displayed on the display unit 301 (step S819). As shown in FIG. 7A, this bookmark data displays the indexes stored in the display content retaining unit 104 corresponding to the pages when the operator makes a command to mark a specific page.

[0113] It is then determined whether a touch on the bookmark portions of the bookmark indexes displayed on the display unit 301 (tabs 711 to 713 in FIG. 7A) is detected (step S820). The determining unit waits in standby until a bookmark portion is touched (step S820: NO) and, when a touch is detected (step S820: YES), a bookmark page corresponding to the touched portion detected in step S820 is displayed (step S821) on the display unit 301, and the process shifts to step S822.

[0114] When the processes of steps S817 and S821 ends, it is determined again whether a bend is detected (step S822). The determining unit stands by until a bend is detected (step S822: NO) and, when a bend is detected (step S822: YES), determines whether the detected bend is a page-turn operation (step S823). If it is determined that a page-turn operation has been performed (step S823: YES), the display contents of the book data are switched on the display unit 301 such that as if the page is being turned (step S824). In step S824, the process to make it "appear as if the page is being turned" is the same as that of step S806. When the process of step S824 ends, the determining unit returns to the process of step S822, and waits in standby until it detects a bend of one of the detecting units 302 to 307.

[0115] On the other hand, when it is determined that the detected bend is not a page-turn operation (step S823: NO), it is then determined whether the next detected bend is an index display operation (step S825). When it is determined that the detected bend is an index display operation (step S825: YES), the counter value N is incremented by "+1" (step S826), and the process returns to step S813 where it is determined whether the counter value is an even number. That is, the chapter indexes and the bookmark indexes can be alternately switched and displayed on the display unit 301 by repeating the index display operation.

[0116] Returning to step S825, when it is determined that the detected bend is not an index display operation (step S825: NO), it is then determined whether the detected bend is a double-fold operation (step S827). When it is determined that the detected bend is not a double-fold operation (step S827: NO), the process returns to step S822 and waits in standby until another bend is detected.

[0117] When it is determined that the detected bend is a double-fold operation (step S827: YES), the determination of step S827 is used as a trigger for starting a timer (step S828). It is then determined whether ten seconds elapses on the timer started in step S828 (step S829).

[0118] If a new bend is detected before ten seconds elapse on the timer (step S829: NO), the process returns to step S822 and the operation content of the detected bend is determined again. When it is determined in step S829 that ten seconds have elapsed since the timer started in step S828 (step S829: YES), the power of the electronic book is turned off (step S830) and this series of processes ends.

[0119] As described above, according to the display control apparatus, the display method, the display program, and the recording medium according to the present invention, a desired page can be speedily displayed by an operation similar to that for an actual book.

[0120] In still another embodiment, when the display unit 301 of the electronic book 300 is folded in two to the outside, the right half or the left half of the display unit 301